

## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** ABAC

**Date:** January 18, 2017

**Time:** 7:30 – 9:20 PM

**Board members in attendance:** Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Phil Goff, Stephan Miller

**Other attendees:** Elizabeth Shea, Emily Snyder, Nat Strosberg, Joey Glushko, Neil Simard (COBWEB officer), Jennifer Litowski (EALS)

**Approval of the December minutes:** The draft minutes were prepared by Stephan. Scott proposed an amendment (sending separately to Stephan). The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

**TAC report:** Scott reported that TAC had an abbreviated meeting, so there is not much to report.

**25<sup>th</sup> bikeway anniversary committee:** Scott reported that the Town Selectmen discussed 25<sup>th</sup> bikeway anniversary committee, which includes 11 members, including those from ABAC (Joey, Nat, Christopher, Jack).

**Lake St Design Review Committee:** The Selectmen also appointed the Lake St Design Review Committee: including Jeff McStudids (TAC), Rachel Stark, Alex (EALs), Wayne Chouinard (DPW), Nat Strosberg, and Elizabeth Shea.

**Arlington Center project:** The traffic lights are not yet installed. There is no turn on red at the intersection; however the signage is not sufficient. ABAC members are very concerned about the safety hazards to pedestrians and cyclists using the bike lane. Members agreed that to await the installation of the light would be to wait too long and what is needed is clear signage (to precede the light installation and to complement the lights once they are in place).

The committee discussed how to proceed to inquire about the status of new signs, or request if appropriate. As DPW is in charge of the project, Chris will contact Mike Rademacher (DPW) to discuss next steps.

**BikeShare:** Scott reported that Seth Federspiel presented the case for bike share programs to the Board of Selectmen. The selectmen discussed the bike share program options; members are all leaning toward Hubway, however issues of cost will need to be resolved. The most challenging questions (from Dan) were about how to make the program feasible in less dense towns. Adam Chaplain reiterated not planning to seek funding this spring.

Nat provided an update, noting that the Board of Selectmen expects to hear a recommendation on the BikeSharing programs. We'll come to our decision, without regard for what Lexington and Bedford have decided. (Bedford has postponed their decision. Lexington is going forward with Zagster).

Motivate, the company that operates Hubway, identifies primary sponsors for the program; secondary sponsors can be challenging to arrange because the town is not able to solicit sponsors. Nat will be contacting other towns regarding how to pursue secondary funding.

Suggestions for funding sources that emerged in discussion were:

- money from parking meter revenue
- incentivize developers to install Hubway stations as components of development plans (see examples provided by Cambridge and other neighboring municipalities)
- grants for solar powered developments, Ruthy Bennett may be able to provide insights)

**Snow Removal on Bikeway:** Following the most recent storm, there was full snow clearance from the bikeway.

### Bike Counts

**Automated count technology:** Nat reported that he is preparing a grant application for Arlington to become part of counting pilot program for regional based data collection. The automated bike counting would be used to supplement the data collected with the manual bike counts. Nat is hoping that the pilot project would extend through the seasons.

**Winter bike count:** Jennifer Litowski, on behalf of EALS, proposed a winter bike count. EALS is interested in getting bike counts in winter and in the dark. EALS is proposing a winter bike count, with the understanding that it would be a brief snapshot and highly weather dependent. The proposed counts would take place in 2 locations: one near Thorndike St. and one near Lake St.

Various suggestions emerged to account for bike usage in variable winter weather conditions:

- blocking out a full week for potential counts; count when weather allows
- see town survey results
- census of bikes parked at Alewife on different weather condition days.

Next step: Jennifer to sketch out a plan and send to EALS and ABAC, with time and place, then call for volunteers.

**Bikeway Hours:** Chris posed the question of whether we should have a working group to address bikeway hours. Members were in agreement; Nat will propose a working group. Details will be discussed at next month's meeting.

**Winter Social:** Attendees had a brief discussion about the winter social. Suggestions about tying the winter social event with the bikeway anniversary celebration will be discussed at the bikeway anniversary meeting.

The committee is considering including a presentation of the bronze certification of bike friendly communities, perhaps with a town selectman to present it.

**Tour of Arlington:** May 21 was selected as the date for the 2016 Arlington tour.

Joey suggested a visit to the Jason Russell House, given that it has recently been completed. Phil raised the possibility of including the DCR path extension to Medford; the committee agreed to hold that route until another year, when we can be assured of the path's completion. ABAC to return to route discussions next month.

**Bike Repair Station:** Nat reported that the bike repair station (sponsored by Whole Foods) was ordered last month. The committee discussed having the installation coincide with the Bikeway 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The committee agreed to pursue an opening or dedication of the station in association with the anniversary celebrations.

**Bike Lights on Bikeway:** There are still no insights as to who installed the signs about light usage on the bike path. Chris mentioned that Rod has some pictures of bright double headlights. The discussion turned to the topic of lighting along the path—if the path had sufficient lighting, blinding lights and pedestrian safety would not be an issue. The Somerville path was cited as a positive example of lights on path, with homes abutting the path.

**Bike rack relocation:** In response to the issue raised by Darcy Devaney of the Disability Commission regarding the placement of bike racks adjacent to (and interfering with) handicapped parking, Phil presented a capitol square bike rack relocation plan (complete with site plan).

With respect to the handicapped parking next to the Fox Library, the plan includes keeping at least 2 racks (one on Mass Avenue, one on Cleveland St) close enough to the library to continue encouraging cyclists visiting the library to use them. A major concern with moving racks too far is that if cyclists resort to locking bikes to poles or trees, that could result in more hindrance of the handicapped parking spaces than the original bike racks. The rack that is currently on Cleveland St would be relocated to closer to the door of the library. There are currently 2 racks on Massachusetts Ave in front of Fox Library. The plan includes keeping one of the two where it is and relocating the other to the front of the DrumConnection (177 Massachusetts Ave). When the owner of the drum store was approached about the possibility of a bike rack in front of the store, he was agreeable but expressed concern about the bench that was placed in front of the store but then removed.

Next steps: Nat to research the missing benches, try to identify additional available bike racks, and inquire when any new bike racks are due to be installed.

**Retirement of Stephan Miller and ABAC replacement:** Chris reported that the Board of Selectman has asked that ABAC follow town procedure to advertise the committee vacancy prior to appointing a new member.

Next steps: Nat to identify what the posting criteria are and to post the vacancy.

**Broadway / Somerville intersection road markings:** Scott diagramed out the Broadway and Route 16 intersection. Proposing remarking to 3 lanes and changing traffic signal sequencing. Phil suggested keeping the signaling the same and repainting the lanes. Scott replied by saying we'd need to do traffic counts to see how that work.

The discussion reached a consensus that the intersection is a problem and ABAC should do something about it. Assessing and solving the problem would involve Arlington, Somerville, and DCR. .

Next steps: discuss with Somerville bike committee; align so as to propose a solution. Find out who runs the traffic signal. (if its Somerville, DCR wouldn't have to be involved). Elizabeth to contact Ken Carlson to get on the SBC agenda.

**Other items:**

Stephen raised the issue of people parking in front of the bank in the bike lane. Stephen suggested a sign, but there's already a sign there. The solution: keep an eye on the situation.